THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) has assessed 40 m. ha. as area prone to flood in India.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is proposed to constitute a North East Water Resources Authority for management of Water Resources in North Eastern Region.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A proposal for setting up Noth East Water Resources Authority has been circulated to all North Eastern States. All States except Arunachal Pradesh are in agreement with the proposal.

(e) Long term measures are basically construction of reservoirs to moderate the floods. Many reservoirs have been identified in Ganga basin and Brahmaputra Basin in Nepal, Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh.

Implementation of Rain Water Harvesting schemes

856. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps in the direction of enforcing rainwater harvesting in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rainwater harvesting facilities have not been implemented even in many Central Government buildings; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) 'Water' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to take steps for enforcing rain water harvesting in the country. However, the Union Government has taken the following steps for encouraging rain water harvesting:-

(i) Circulation of Manual/Guidelines on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to conserve and use rain water.

(ii) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directions to Group Housing Societies, Institutes, hotels, Industries, Farm houses, etc., in the notified areas of Delhi, Faridabad, Gurgaon and Ghaziabad and other areas of NCT Delhi where ground water table is below 8 meters from ground surface, to adopt rain water harvesting system.

(iii) CGWB has provided technical guidance on rain water harvesting to more than 2500 agencies, including State Government agencies, educational institutions, private entrepreneurs and individuals.

(iv) With a view to bring rain water harvesting schemes closer to common people, films on rain water harvesting in urban areas and rural areas have been produced for wide publicity among masses. Mass awareness programmes and training courses on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water have been organized throughout the country involving Central/ State Governments/Non-Government Organizations/Voluntary organizations/Resident Welfare Associations/Educational Institutions/Industries and Individuals.

(v) Rain Water Harvesting campaign has also been launched keeping in view the various target groups. Publicity through print media, telecasting of spots on the television, broadcasting messages on radio, holding of seminars, workshops, conferences etc., have also been undertaken.

(vi) The Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Allevation, Government of India have amended Building Bye-laws, 1983, making provision for water harvesting through storing of water run-off including rain water in all new buildings on plots of 100 square meters and above in Delhi mandatory. Similarly, State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan and Kerala have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in specified cases.

(vii) An activity namely, "Demonstration of Rain Water Harvesting from Roof Tops and two toilets in Government schools in rural areas in various States through Community Based Organizations

(CBOs)" was taken up during Fresh Water year, 2003-04. Based on its success, more girls rural Government schools have been covered with roof top rain water harvesting projects, during 2005-07.

(viii) A demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" is being implemented in 13 identified areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu at a total cost of Rs. 12 crores during the year 2006-07.

(c) and (d) Central Ministries/Departments of Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecommunications, Central Public Works Department and National Highways Authority of India have been requested to provide roof top rain water harvesting structures in the buildings under their control. Accordingly, such roof top rain water harvesting structures have been provided in many Central Government buildings.

Centrally Funded Irrigation Schemes in Rajasthan

857. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved certain proposals for strengthening the irrigation system in drought-prone State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked/released to the State Government druing the current year; and

(d) the details of the status of the implementation of Centrally funded irrigation schemes in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) (i) Projects approved by Planning Commission: The names of projects (district-wise) benefiting drought prone districts of Rajasthan are given in the enclosed statement-I (*See* below).